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**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 to 8 (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) A filament brake comprising:  
a rotatably journaled drum defining a drum axis (X);  
said drum having a plurality of peripherally-extending take-up slots formed thereon for accommodating a plurality of filaments therein;  
said take-up slots being spaced one from the other in the direction of said drum axis (X); and  
a drive wheel adapted to cooperate with means for adjusting the torque of said drum,  
wherein each of said slots has an arcuate shape viewed in cross section and includes a filament intake region and a filament run-out region; said drum having a first diameter at each intake region and a second diameter at each run-out region; and, said first diameter is greater than said second diameter.
10. (Previously presented) The filament brake of claim 9, wherein the drum is journaled at one end.
11. (Previously presented) The filament brake of claim 9, wherein the drum is a shaft journaled at both ends.
12. (Currently amended) A filament brake comprising:  
a rotatably journaled drum defining a drum axis (X); said drum having a smooth surface;  
an ancillary shaft adjacent said drum and arranged inclined to said drum axis (X);  
and,  
a plurality of filaments being individually wrapped around the combination of said drum and said ancillary shaft.

Claims 13 and 14 (Canceled)

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**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 as amended is patentable.

Applicants believe that the previous reply was fully responsive to the Office Action to the extent possible. Unfortunately, the Office Action was deficient, and thus the Aelion reference could not be addressed. This was not a failure on the applicants' part. Thus applicants believe that another non-final three-month office action would have been a more suitable way to proceed.

As this case was recently moved from a law firm to the current representation, it would be greatly appreciated if this could be taken into account when issuing the next office action. Making it non-final would be very helpful.

Respectfully submitted,



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